

## Alabama PSC enacts new ethics rules, tries to close lobbyist loophole

Published: Friday, November 19, 2010, 6:05 PM      Updated: Friday, November 19, 2010, 6:14 PM



By **The Associated Press**

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- The Alabama Public Service Commission has approved new ethics rules that prohibit commission members and employees from soliciting or accepting a gift or a campaign contribution from a lobbyist representing a company regulated by the PSC.

The commission and its employees were already prohibited from doing that with regulated companies. But Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh said the commission wanted to close a loophole that existed with lobbyists. The change was 3-0 Thursday.

The commission also agreed to designate an ethics officer from its staff. The officer will provide annual ethics training for employees of the utility regulatory board.